

To all the **brethren** **Congregations** of the
peculiar People of God now **reproached**
and persecuted by the Name, and un-
der the denomination of Quakers, that
Grace, Mercy and Peace of God the
Father, and the Power of His Christ be
always with you, and increased on

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leave undone the things which you ought to have done, and do the things which you ought not to have done? And did you not then err in your hearts, and go astray like lost sheep? How did the false Prophet then lead you, whose right eye is utterly darkened? And how did the Merchants of the Earth make a prey upon you, whilst you were all the day long accounted as sheep for the slaughter, in the streets of the great City of Confusion, where you have been captives, mourning in desolation, though you could not with delight participate in her sin? And therefore hath the Lord called you forth, and separated you from among them, and saved you with a mighty salvation, and lifted up the light of his countenance upon you, and now is the Spirit of Life from God entered into you, that laid as slain in the streets of the great City, spiritually called *Sodom and Egypt*.

Wherefore arise, arise ye faithful and true Witnesses of the Most High, over whom the Heathen and Inhabitants of the earth have made merry; & lift up your voices like Trumpets, let the Word of God which is like fire, proceed out of your mouths, and let the high Praises of God be in your hearts; March up to Mount Zion in the sight of your Enemies, that you may see the Judgement of the great Where, the Beast and the False prophet alive, and destroyed together.

[illegible]

Is the Decree sealed against you, and the time prefixed and Possession forth? ~~Will ye then bow in obedience to the King's command?~~ Well, And is there none to help nor make supplication? ~~Will ye then see the salvation of God, the Enemy of our souls, and those of our friends, safely delivered to their Enemies gone forth that none must meet, to make prayer and supplication to God, but under great penalties?~~ And will our Devil conform and obey the King's Laws? No, it's contrary to the Law of his God, and against the King both in law nothing worthy of punishment. And is the way in which you worship the God of *David* at this day called Heresy? And must not five meet together to make intercession and supplication to God for all men, according to the promise of the primitive Christians, but it must be accounted a transgression of Law? Well, it's better to obey God than man in this case, and no satisfaction for non-conforming, with the established, persecuted people of God then to make shipwreck of Faith and a good Conscience, and so to be cut out as abominable branches amongst the workers of iniquity. Are you despised by *Savills* because you are but a few in number, and feeble in appearance? Fear not little Flock, for the Lord is with you, and no Enchantment nor formed Weapon can prevail against you, for your Work is of God, and your Building will stand in the stormy day. Are you now hated, reproached and persecuted for your Religion and righteousness? Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for this was the portion of your Predecessors the Prophets and holy Apostles, in the days of their pilgrimages in this World. Doth our Fig-tree blossom? Is there no appearance of fruit in the Vine? Rejoice ye in the Lord, and trust in the God of your salvation, Is Trench fallen in the Streets? Can Equity triumph over Justice? Are proud men accounted happy, and wicked men called to it? You shall fear the Lord, and tremble at his Word, meet often together, and speak comfortably one unto another, that the Lord may number your names among his Saints, and against the assembling of your selves together, ~~ye shall be some, whose day is turned into darkness, whose sun is gone down upon you, and who are slain~~

among the uncircumcised, But dear friends, enter all into the Mountain of the Lord's House, and hide yourselves within the munition of Rocks, until the wrath of man be restrained; and let every soul be subject to the power of Christ Jesus, and you that are strong, watch over the weak; comfort the feeble-minded, bear one another's burdens; say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong: Consider them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and as being members of the same body, build up one another in the most holy faith, endure hardships, as seeing him that is invisible; with respect to the recompence of reward, the durable riches which are appointed for the faithful. Let not the glory of this Worlds Kingdom, external Liberty, the pleasures of sin, nor the treasures of Egypt, enter into your hearts to alienate your affections from your Head and Husband, the Bridegroom and Bishop of your souls; let neither flattery nor fair speeches draw you away from your steadfastness; fear not mens throns, faint not in your minds; cast not away your confidence, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial, as if some strange thing had happened unto you, for the trial of your faith is precious.

Is the agreement made, That whosoever shall confess Christ to be come in the flesh, either in practice, principle or declaration, shall be cast out of the Synagogue, and into Dens and Prisons, Caves and nasty holes of the Earth; Fear not little Flock, fear none of the things that you are called to suffer; for God that made the World and all things in it, dwelleth not in Temples made with hands, neither doth he at this day require tythes and offerings, nor sacrifices for sin; but a broken heart, and a contrite spirit is that in which he delighteth: obedience to his commands is better than sacrifice; and to hear his voice; and do his will, is more acceptable than the fat of Rams: And if you suffer for Christ sake as evil-doers when unto bonds, the Lord will comfort you in all your tribulations, and bring you forth with joy and gladness of veart, when your Testimony for him is faithfully finished.

Is the times so perilous now, that none must buy and sell but such as will receive the mark of the Beast either in their
fore-

fore-heads, or in their right hand? Oh! let the one hundred forty and four thousand that are redeemed from the Earth, and whose Names are written in Heaven, stand with the Lamb upon the Mountain where the house of the Lord is established; that they may be abundantly satisfied with the Farnesse thereof, and that they may receive Milk and Wine, Bread and Water, without money and without price; and let the seven thousand *Israelites* that cannot bow to the likeness of any thing, be also assembled together, that they may obtain joy and gladness, and receive the garments of praise for the Spirit of heaviness; and that there may be one Lord, & his name one, one sheepfold, and one Shepherd; for in every place they that fear God and work righteousness are accepted of him; and now is the Lord searching out his Flock that have wandered like lost sheep in the weary Wilderness; and upon the barren Mountains; that he may feed them with knowledge and understanding; and that they may go in, and forth by the door, and find pasture, and may hear the voice of the good Shepherd, who hath loved them, and whom God hath exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, that in all things he as Head of the Church may have the preeminence.

Have the High-Priests consulted together to charge this Shepherds Flock to go follow him no more, nor to speak no more in his Name, and why will they not obey Authority? Because its better to obey God, and to keep his commandments, and to suffer persecution with the people of God, when mans commands are contrary to the Law of God, than to deny Christ before men for fear of their wrath; for mans wrath worketh not Gods righteousness.

And so all you that have been with Jesus, be bold to confess him, and to meet and speak in his Name, for where-ever two or three are gathered together in his Name, its so far from being an unlawful Meeting in Christs account, as that he hath promised to be present; and he is not limited to time, number of place, three, four, or five thousand; for its his will that men should pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath or doubting; and he that is afflicted, let him pray, and he that loveth the Lord Jesus, must keep his commandments, and

and follow his example, for he prayed and spoke among the multitude in the Mountains and in the Deserts, in Ships, and by the sea-side, and the Apostles spoke to the people that resorted to the Rivers side, where prayer was to be made.

Is refusing to swear in any cause, accounted a transgression at this day? Who then is the Author of this respect? Is Christ the Author of sin? Or did he come to destroy the Law? Nay, he came to fulfil it, and he is the end of the Law for righteousness unto all believers; and as in old time it was said, *Thou shalt not forswear thyself*; so now saith Christ, *A new Commandment give I unto you, Swear not at all*, which is as obligatory to Christians, and as exactly to be observed, as *Thou shalt not steal*, *Thou shalt not kill*, *Thou shalt not commit Adultery*, or any other command going before; And such as are constrained with love to God, must manifest it by their reverent respect to all his commandments; and if in this cause you, or any of you be called in question, let all men know that it is for your obedience to Christ, and not out of contempt to Government, and when you are hated of the Nations for his Name sake, and in obedience to his commands, Lift up your heads, for your salvation is nearer then when you first believed; and hitherto hath the Lord been a patient help in the time of trouble, notwithstanding the great opposition of your adversaries, that you being delivered from the hands of your oppressors, might serve him in holiness all your life long as a people saved by him for the same purpose. Oh how hath the Lord appeared in an acceptable time for your deliverance out of desolation, when you wandered in the Wilderness in a dark and solitary way; and how hath he lifted up the light of his countenance upon you in the days of your infancy! He hath supported you, and his candle hath shined upon your heads, his secret was upon your Tabernacle, and his Word a light upon your pathes; when you had but a little strength he carried you in his arms, and led you gently by the footsteps of the Flock when you were but young; and he hath planted you now as a noble vine, that your growning may go forth among the Libanons sound about; and you are the Salt of the Earth, and as a City set on a Hill, that cannot be hid; and this is the day of your

trial,

To the Brethren in the travel and perfect Liberty (in the holy acceptable Faith) through the sufferings of the free born, unchangeable seed of Truth, whether in bonds or otherwise beset, in London or elsewhere, throughout the Land, Greetings of pure and perfect love, in the blessed savour of Grace, Peace and Truth herewith is sent, that which is arisen up, and springs forth from one and the same clear, innocent Testimony of Jesus Christ our Lord, for whose Name sake ye suffer, my soul that liveth in the prosperity and suffering of your life, beareth record not only to your consolation, but for your faithfulness to the right Way and pure worship of the living invisible God of Eternity, over all blessed for ever. Amen.

MY dear Friends, in the blessed unity & fellowship of the Eternal Gospel of God, in the life of Immortality which is brought to light hereby, ye are in the holy lively stedfast Faith, which stands in the same in every particular of us, who have assuredly believed in it, for our comfort and edification in the blessed love of the blessed truth, in which is no variableness, no not so much as the shadow of turning: Verily in the same is the right dear salvation of the kindness of my very heart and precious life, to you in the Father's bowels of tenderness and everlasting pity and compassion, the which I am well perswaded reacheth to, and among, and in every particular of you, more or less, that live and dwell in the Fountain of the pure fear of the Lord, with your pure minds give up steadfast and entire to him, and of his Eternal Riches are made partakers more or less in your own, day by day, morning by morning, because his mercies and bountifulness endureth for ever, in his own life and goodness, in the hid treasures of his House that's immovably founded upon the sure and stedfast foundation of blessedness, that is sure from generation to generation, from everlasting to everlasting, even the pure Rock of Ages, the perfect foundation of many

many generations; behold, this is our Rock and hiding place of refuge, and consolation in all our distresses, even as it was our Fathers of old.

Wherefore lift up the head ye blessed of the Lord, and open ye everlasting Gates of praise; what though storms arise, and dark tempests wheel about; and floods beat, and troubled Seas swell, and the proud Waves lift up their heads, and rise with violence again and again against us; as our eyes hath seen; well, yet let us be still, be glad, and rejoice in the everlasting kindness and tenderness of our God that lives for ever, who delighteth in them that fear him, that sits upon the floods in the Ark of his Almightyness, and guides with his eye and skillfulness of his hand, and openeth his bowels of healing and saving-health unto the upright in heart, that in any wise cannot be ashamed of his blessed and manifold appearances; but confess him, and trust in him among, and before the sons of men, and as so many pillars of eternal righteousness holding forth the pure Testimony of innocency, and as an Ensign to the Nations, the same in the blessed wisdom of the just, living Lord of Life from on high; the same is displayed over the heads of the uncircumcised in heart; so that many sweetly savour the heavenly distillings of the pure, clear breath of immortality, eternal life, which is breathed forth, and so richly manifested and brought to light, which flourisheth in the midst of the House of *Israel*, and dwelleth in the tents of little, small *Jacob*, who is arising in the eternal strength of his mighty God, to possess the Gate of his Enemies, and to tread upon the high places of the Earth; Oh feel his triumph in every particular, in the faithfulness of the God of good old *Abraham* and his Seed, to which all the exceeding great and precious promises pertain, against which no formed Weapon can prosper, albeit the crafts-men and cunning Inventers be never so skilful and artificial, the counsel of the Lord God over all shall stand, and his living Word of Life and Salvation shall endure for ever the same, without any variableness, as it was in the beginning with God blessed for ever, *Amen*.

And with you my dearly beloved brethren, ye Fathers, Elders and Pillars of blessedness, my soul right dearly loveth

you, and cleaveth unto you, in whom the Word of Eternal Life hath an abiding-place in the sanctifying power and heavenly virtue of the same, is that which adorns the tabernacles of the just, and fills the upright-hearted with gladness, and causeth the little Babes of Life to reign with unspeakable joy, in peace and quietness, and also reneweth the blessed strength of young men to wax grave, temperate, bold and valiant in the renowned Faith of the Worthies of old, so that both old and young, high and low, babes and little ones, are on this wise blessed with the sweet savour of the goodness of our God: Oh what shall I say! words are all insufficient to demonstrate: Is it not even so, and much more? let the life of pure virtue and lasting righteousness, bear me record concerning this salvation which is unutterable, to declare the depth and riches of the same which hath no end. Well, the blessed day and season is so manifestly approached, and shining over us, that many words are not to be multiplied to tell you of these things, who are made partakers and lively Witnesses of the same; yet a little you may well bear with me, because I perfectly love you, and in the same I greet you my dear Friends, every particular of you in your own, without respect of persons, whether in bonds or at liberty, my heart is one with you, your souls are as mine; ye lively Saints in light, if you suffer, how can I rejoyce? if you lament and mourn because of oppression, so do I; and the Father's bowels of kindness and tender pity hovereth over us to our consolation; and so however it be, its well with us in the heavenly exercise of our pure minds, in the unlimited Spirit of holiness, and sanctifying power of blessedness, in the fear of the Lord God: So Grace and Life, Love and Peace, of eternal goodness be increased and multiplied, and abound more and more in every particular (to be witnessed) over all, Yea and Amen, by the pure hand of Immortal life and virtue, to his glory that liveth for ever in the everlasting Light, in which I salute you all, as I began my voice, so in the same I finish to you-ward at this time, only in the perfect love and unity I commend every of you to the pure manifestation of the living Lords life, in the same

same that is invisable, eternal and unchangeable, and shall not to be preserved unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in fulness and mighty power and glory: Blessed are all that in uprightnes love (and waite for) his appearance and Kingdom over all, *Amen and Amen.*

Friends in this Countrey do well universally, and the love of the truth prospereth wel in them: Meetings are quiet yet, onely six at present Prisoners for meeting. Truth encreaseth with its good savour in the hearts of many here away: Right dearly, friends are affected with your cruel sufferings & faithfulness, and in our prayers, sighs and groans, we cannot forget you, as we are well perswaded neither can you forget us likewise, as it becometh Saints. Farewel:

Shrewsbury Town-Gaol for the
blessed clear testimony of
the right way and pure wor-
ship of the Lord Jesus, a pri-
soner this 14. of the 9. Mon.
1662.

In the faith and long-suf-
fering patience of the Saints
in light, I am your compani-
on and brother,

Daniel Baker.

A heavenly Voice to the Mourners in *Sion*, and to all that
sigh and languish within the borders of *Jerusalem*,
is this tender Salutation.

O Jerusalem! Jerusalem! why art thou thus dismay'd?
Thy King doth live and reign in truth, thou needst not be afraid:
Behold a Cup of mourning's put in thy hand,
That all may mourn with thee within thy Land.
What though thou mourn a while, as in the darkest night,
Thy joy shall far surmount the same with triumph in the clear Tasting
light.

Oppressed

Oppressed Sion, thy precious stones, why art thou thus?
 As if thou wert a stone, they could wear thee down.
 My Sion, for thou art a city of holiness,
 Because thy priests are righteous, thy gates are open,
 Drink down thy mourning, for the Lord thy God is with thee,
 To heal thy bleeding wounds, for the Lord thy God is with thee.
 Thy comforter is near, be not afraid, for the Lord thy God is with thee.
 Thy watchmen shall not sleep, for the Lord thy God is with thee.
 Thy walls shall be built, for the Lord thy God is with thee.
 Thy gates shall be open, for the Lord thy God is with thee.
 But how the Bowels of the Lord are for Sion, for he is a merciful God.
 None know save the Lord, for he is the Father of the fatherless.
 (But why, how long, O Lord?)
 O Sion, Sion, thy God is long suffering, for he is a merciful God.
 He also feels thy wounds, even from thy enemies hands.
 But why, how long, O Lord? how long shall thou be angry?
 Whistle Bears, Wolves, Lyons, for they shall not be afraid.
 The outside Hedges of Sion shall be built, for the Lord thy God is with thee.
 Arise, when King David shall arise, and shall speak with thy voice.
 With thy Eternal Word (thy Sword) smite an army.
 Let Sions Enemies (so strong) by thee be slain.
 And let the Lights of thy sweet Life shine forth.
 Because thine Off-spring shall arise, as was in the North.
 Then blessed seed of Israel, shall dwell in thee,
 Because thou art a merciful God, and thy name is holy.
 Thy Name, thy Holy Name, shall be praised, O Lord thy God.
 Thy habitation is glorious, in which my soul dwells.

D. B.



